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Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/60/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 58/32 of 8 December 2003, entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to consider existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them. The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to conduct a study of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunication systems, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, appointed by him on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, and to submit a report on the outcome of the study to the Assembly at its sixtieth session.

II. Organizational matters

2. In accordance with the terms of the resolution, the Secretary-General appointed a group of governmental experts from 15 States: Belarus, Brazil, China, France, Germany, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The list of experts is contained in the annex.

3. The Group of Governmental Experts met in three sessions, the first from 12 to 16 July 2004 at United Nations Headquarters, the second from 28 March to 1 April 2005 in Geneva, and the third from 11 to 22 July 2005 at United Nations Headquarters. At its first session, the Group unanimously elected Andrey V. Krutskikh of the Russian Federation as its Chairman.

4. The Monitoring, Database and Information Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs served as secretariat to the Group.

5. In accordance with its mandate as contained in resolution 58/32, the Group had a comprehensive, in-depth exchange of views on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. Furthermore, the Group took into account the views expressed in the replies received from Member States in response to General Assembly resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002, 58/32 of 8 December 2003 and 59/61 of 3 December 2004, respectively entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security", as well as contributions and background papers made available by individual members of the Group. However, given the complexity of the issues involved, no consensus was reached on the preparation of a final report.

Annex

List of members of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security

Mr. Valery V. Tsepkalo
Assistant to the President of the Republic of Belarus

Mr. Murilo Marques Barboza
Special Adviser to the Minister of Defence
Brazil

Mr. Wang Qun
Deputy Director-General, Department of Arms Control and Disarmament
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
China

Mr. Wu Haitao (first session)
Counsellor, Department of Arms Control and Disarmament
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
China

Ms. Stéphanie Schaer
General Secretariat for National Defence
France

Mr. Thomas Schäfer
First Counsellor, Head of Division of Conventional Arms Control
Federal Foreign Office
Germany

Mr. Arvind Gupta
Joint Secretary, National Security Council Secretariat
India

Mr. Sanjiv Ranjan (first session)
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations

Mr. Bisher Al-Khasawneh (first session)
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Jordan to the United Nations

Mr. Azzam Alameddin
Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Jordan to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva

Mr. Md. Shah Nuri bin Md. Zain (second session)
Director, Directorate of Technical Development and Information Technology
National Security Division, Prime Minister's Department
Malaysia

Mr. Mohd Azlan Zaharudin
Assistant Director, Directorate of Technical Development and Information Technology
National Security Division, Prime Minister's Department
Malaysia

Mr. Cheickna Keita (first session)
First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations

Mr. Kalilou Doumbia
First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Mali to the United Nations

Mr. Jorge Antonio Espinosa Durán
Information Security Manager, Preventive Federal Police
Mexico

Mr. Lew Kwang-chul
Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Mr. Andrey V. Krutskikh
Deputy Director, Department for Disarmament and Security Matters
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation

Major-General Ashwin C. Hurribunce
Chief of Command and Management Information Systems Division
Department of Defence
South Africa

Mr. Geoff Smith
Head, Information Security Policy Team, Department of Trade and Industry
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Ms. Michele Markoff
Senior Coordinator for International Critical Infrastructure Protection, Bureau of Political Military Affairs, Department of State
United States of America